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February 3, 1988

OCA 88-0337

OCA FILE 4IAC

Mr. John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helgerson:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 1988 in reply to my letter of January 25th to Director Webster. I appreciate the prompt reply.

I am troubled by your reply, however, and would like to know what is the rationale for classifying this information, and what is the rationale for having such information, which impinges on a public program, available only to a few members in highly classified form. If members are to make informed judgments and cast votes on public programs based on the facts, then they must have timely access to relevant information. The requirement for special classified briefings on some of these issues seems inappropriate given the public and open nature of the debate on this issue.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter and look forward to a reply.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe
and the Middle East

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